

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for performing server initiated database synchronisation between a mail server and a client on a mobile computing device, comprising the steps of:

providing the mail server and the client each with a copy of a user mailbox;

receiving a message for said user at said mail server;

10 storing the message in said user mailbox on said mail server;

responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, initiating a link between said mail server and said client; and

5 synchronising the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy such that said message is added to the client copy of the mailbox.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail server copy of the mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client.

25 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of initiating a link to said client comprises executing an agent, wherein the agent initiates a call to the client using said remote device id.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the agent initiates the call to the client by:

creating a trigger message, said trigger message comprising the remote device id;

5 transmitting said trigger message to a message server; and

responsive to receipt of said trigger message at the message server, initiating said link between the mail server and the client in order to perform said synchronisation.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said message server includes an address book, in which the remote device id of the client and contact details are stored.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of initiating a link to the client further comprises:

receiving the trigger message at said message server;

looking up the remote device id contained within said trigger message in the message server's address book;

mapping said remote device id to the corresponding contact details; and

25 using said details to transmit a second trigger message to the client.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein a first link is established between the client and the message server to allow receipt of said second trigger message by the client, said method further comprising the steps of:

5 dropping said first link after receipt of said second trigger message at the client;

 initiating a second link from the client to the message server; and

 transmitting a synchronisation request over said
10 second link from the message server to the client, wherein said synchronisation is performed in response to receipt of said request at the client.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the second trigger message is an SMS text message.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the mail server and the message server are physically the same machine.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing a user to disable server initiated database synchronisation with the client.

11. The method of claim 1, comprising the steps of:
25 logging when synchronisation was last performed; and
 responsive to receipt of a new message for the user at the mail server, waiting a predetermined amount of

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time after said synchronisation was last performed before performing synchronisation again.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of enabling a user to alter said predetermined amount of time.

13. A mail server for initiating database synchronisation with a client on a mobile computing device, comprising:

a mail server copy of a user mailbox, wherein a copy of said user mailbox also exists on the client;

means for receiving a message for said user at the mail server;

means for storing the message in said user mailbox on the mail server;

means, responsive to receipt of said message at the mail server, for initiating a link between the mail server and the client; and

means for transmitting synchronisation updates to the client in order to synchronise the client copy of said mailbox with the mail server copy, such that said message is added to the client copy of the mailbox.

14. The mail server of claim 13, wherein the mail server copy of the mailbox includes a remote device id for identifying the client.

15. The mail server of claim 14, wherein the means for initiating a link to said client comprises an agent which initiates a call to the client using said remote device id.

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16. The mail server of claim 15, wherein the mail server further includes a message server, and wherein the agent initiates the call to the client by creating a trigger message, said trigger message including the remote device id, and by transmitting said trigger message to the message server, said message server including means responsive to receipt of said trigger message for initiating said link between the mail server and the client in order to perform said synchronisation.

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17. The mail server of claim 16, wherein said message server includes an address book, in which the remote device id of the client and contact details are stored.

18. The mail server of claim 17, wherein the message server further comprises:

means for receiving the trigger message;

means for looking up the remote device id contained within said trigger message in the message server's address book;

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means for mapping said remote device id to the corresponding contact details; and

means for using said details to transmit a second trigger message to the client.

19. The mail server of claim 18, wherein the second trigger message is an SMS text message.

20. The mail server of claim 13, further comprising means for allowing a user to disable server initiated database synchronisation with the client.

21. The mail server of claim 13, further comprising:
a log of when synchronisation was last performed;
and

means responsive to receipt of a new message for the user at the mail server, for waiting a predetermined amount of time after synchronisation was last performed before performing synchronisation again.

22. The mail server of claim 21, further comprising means for enabling a user to alter said predetermined amount of time.

23. A mobile computing device including a copy of a user mailbox, wherein said copy corresponds to a user mailbox on a mail server, said server performing server initiated database synchronisation upon receipt of a message for the user at said mail server, said device comprising:
means for detecting a call from the mail server;

